

Not all happy with new bridge

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By JANET HART
Herald Staff Writer

OREM — When city officials decided to install improvements on a bridge across the Murdock Canal, they thought they were making residents happy and the bridge safer.

But now the project is complete, complaints seem to be mounting.

"What we really did was create a public nuisance — both with the bridge and the fence," said Orem Mayor Stella Welsh. "I don't think we've heard the end of it."

The bridge, located just east of Northridge Park, was originally installed last fall as a walkway between the park, homes to the east and Northridge Elementary School.

In May of this year — after water began flowing in the canal — several neighborhood representatives approached the city with concerns about the safety of children playing on and around the bridge.

After considerable discussion and a 4-to-3 vote, the city council agreed to install fencing on both sides of the bridge; sidewalk, stairs and a ramp on the west side; a sidewalk on the east side and caging across the top of the bridge.

The city also had to install electronically controlled gates where the fencing crosses the canal road to allow access by maintenance trucks from the Provo River Water Users Association.

While most of the safety improvements were installed by the



Herald Photo/Patrick J. Krohn

Students from Northridge Elementary in north Orem head home over a new bridge that spans the Murdock Canal.

stalled. However, that could mean the people who requested the improvements are satisfied.

Although noticeable, negative comments also haven't been as prevalent as the city first thought they might be.

Manning said the complaints are mainly from joggers and those people "never want to argue the point that's its a safety issue for children."

"I look at it from this point of view — people who have complained will never have to go and meet with the parents of a child who has drowned," Manning said.

Adamson said the original cost of the bridge was about \$12,500. Costs involved with the recent improvements include approximately \$16,000 for chain-link fencing and more than \$17,000 for concrete work.

The city looked at gates that were controlled by a button instead of a remote control type device, but if joggers could find the button, so could children, Adamson added.

Richard Poulson, superintendent of the water users association, said the association didn't want the bridge to begin with and wouldn't allow it again.

"As a favor...and with the assurance that the bridge would meet standards, we allowed it. But, in hindsight, it was a bad project," Poulson said.

Some of the standards Orem had to meet included height and width requirements, structural security and passage width, Poulson said.

Even though the canal crews can control the gates, Poulson

business magazine.

Cannon bought the six-year-old magazine from American Diversified Publishing owner Peter Evans last week. He declined to disclose terms of the purchase but said it was "not a huge amount of money."

Evans first approached Cannon about buying Utah Business earlier this year, but Cannon wasn't interested. He had just returned to Geneva following a disappointing failed bid for U.S. Senate and didn't believe he had the time or money to invest in a magazine.

"Something just clicked in my mind," Cannon said. "I didn't want another organ of public opinion in Utah being owned by people who didn't know a thing about Utah."

Cannon last year negotiated unsuccessfully to buy the Standard-Examiner in Ogden, once published by his family. The deal fell through and the paper was purchased by the out-of-state Sandusky Newspaper Group.

"I want to build Utah however I can build Utah," Cannon said. "This is a platform to bring good ideas to the business community

writing found in such publications as Forbes, Fortune and Business Week.

"I don't view the magazine as greatly deficient, but I think the content can be upgraded some," he said.

With that in mind, Cannon hired Craig R. Hickman as publisher. Hickman is a longtime, close friend of Cannon's who consulted on Cannon's 1992 Senate campaign.

Hickman, a graduate of Brigham Young University and the Harvard Business School, is a business consultant and author.

The magazine is currently published six times a year but Cannon said he is considering increasing publication to 11 issues a year.

The magazine has a staff of five for sales and administrative staff. Most articles are submitted by freelance writers, although Cannon may add some nationally syndicated columnists.

Utah Business has 3,000 subscribers. Cannon plans to print 30,000 copies of the magazine each month, which will be distributed to a targeted demographic group.

Let's get married,' school official says

By PAT CHRISTIAN
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AMERICAN FORK — Alpine School District Superintendent Steven Baugh says educators have one pretty well at educating students to survive classroom life, but says maybe educators have done poorly at educating students who

"have only stolen a shy glance at each other," or "on rare occasion ... danced an awkward dance or two."

He says education has prepared students in a vacuum, with inadequate emphasis on employment skills, job markets or the business savvy a closer relationship with

In one recent survey, cited by Baugh in his article —

- 33 percent of business leaders thought graduates have the ability to read and understand written and oral instructions.
- 41 percent believe students are unable to work cooperatively with other employees.

and others, and talking about how to make education more relevant.

The chairman of Partners in Education is Paul Sybrowski, CEO of Dynix.

Besides business investing in the ideas communicated to educators, Baugh sees business also investing more than ideas.

said, they are a bit too narrow which may cause problems in the future.

As for the joggers, Poulson said even before the gates were installed, anyone using the road besides the canal company was technically trespassing.

"I'd like to bulldoze the bugger out of there; it's caused nothing but controversies and maintenance problems," Poulson said. "If it (the bridge) becomes more of a liability to us, we'll have it removed."

Welsh said she hasn't received any personal complaints about the gates and fencing, but knows the city has taken several phone calls.

Adamson said muddy footprints on the sides of the bridge indicate people are already climbing up and over the fencing. Someone even unbolted a section of the chain-link fencing on the east side where it connects with the bridge in order to get through, he added.

"It's been a sore topic for everyone involved," Adamson said. "It was thrown in on top of our other projects, but then you have to go back to what it's worth if one of these kids fall in."

Richard Manning, Public Works director, said he hasn't heard anything positive about the project since the gates were installed.

Now, the only way to run his regular route is to use the paved roads in the area because the canal road "is completely blocked off by the gates," said Hargrave.

If a child really wants to get to the water he only has to walk a quarter mile to an open area, Hargrave said. "The problems they were trying to solve was getting people from east to west. Yes, they've done that but keeping a kid out? Not if he's really determined."

Although some people may choose to use the streets, evidence at the bridge shows some joggers aren't letting the fences or the gates stop them.

beginning of June, the caging was completed early last week, according to Kendall Adamson, construction engineer supervising the work.

Residents began complaining in the middle of June particularly at a neighborhood meeting at Northridge Elementary.

During that meeting, which was conducted by Councilman Kelvin Clayton, several citizens objected to the gates because they prevent recreational use of the road by both joggers and bikers.

In a late August telephone conversation with *The Daily Herald*, Neil Hargrave said he used to be able to run along the canal between 1600 and 2000 North.